2026-08-26 16:16:12 **You**

At face-value (without concern for sectarian or historic interpretations) If the same doctrinal concerns and criteria stated by John in his epistles were applied to Mormons (LDS) and Jehovah Witnesses (Watchtower) how much would they be in agreement?

Perplexity pplx_pro

Using only John's stated concerns—without importing later creeds, theological systems, or debates—the two groups substantially affirm most of the things John requires. The main areas of uncertainty are whether their teaching fully matches John's language about the Son's identity and whether their additional/organizational authorities fit John's appeal to what believers heard "from the beginning."

Direct comparison

John's concern	Latter-day Saints (LDS)	Jehovah's Witnesses
Confess that Jesus is the Christ — 1 John 2:22; 5:1	**Agree.** LDS teaching identifies Jesus as the Christ, Messiah, Son of God, Savior, and Redeemer. newsroom… churchofje…	**Agree.** Witnesses identify Jesus as the Christ, Messiah, Son of God, Savior, and the way to the Father. jw.org jw.org
Confess Jesus Christ has come in flesh — 1 John 4:2–3; 2 John 7	**Agree.** LDS teaching says Jesus was genuinely human—capable of pain, sickness, and temptation—and was the Son of God in the flesh. newsroom…	**Agree.** Witnesses teach that Jesus came from heaven, became flesh, and lived as a real human being. jw.org jw.org
Affirm the saving importance of Jesus' death — 1 John 1:7; 2:2; 4:10; 5:6	**Agree.** LDS teaching treats Jesus' suffering, death, resurrection, and Atonement as central to reconciliation with God, forgiveness, and resurrection. churchofje… churchofje…	**Agree.** Witnesses teach that Jesus offered his perfect human life as a ransom, making redemption from sin and death possible. jw.org jw.org

John's concern	Latter-day Saints (LDS)	Jehovah's Witnesses
Do not deny sin; confess need for forgiveness — 1 John 1:8–10	**Agree.** LDS teaching calls people to repentance and teaches reliance on Christ's Atonement and grace. churchofje… churchofje…	**Agree.** Witnesses teach that people are sinful, need forgiveness, and depend on Christ's ransom. jw.org jw.org
Keep God's commandments — 1 John 2:3–6; 3:4–10	**Agree.** LDS teaching calls for faith, repentance, baptism, receiving the Holy Ghost, and enduring faithfully. churchofje…	**Agree.** Witness teaching presents faithful obedience as an essential expression of genuine faith and response to Christ's ransom. jw.org jw.org
Love fellow believers — 1 John 2:9–11; 3:10–18; 4:7–21	**Agree in stated doctrine.** LDS teaching makes love, service, and discipleship central duties of Christians. churchofje… churchofje…	**Agree in stated doctrine.** Witness teaching stresses love modeled on Jesus' sacrificial love and expressed in Christian conduct. jw.org jw.org
Remain in what was heard from the beginning; test teachers and spirits — 1 John 2:18–27; 4:1–6; 2 John 9–11	**Potential tension.** LDS believers affirm the Bible but also accept later scripture, living prophets, and continuing revelation. They would say these confirm and restore original Christianity; a reader applying John's words narrowly might ask whether they remain within what was originally received.	**Potential tension.** Witnesses affirm the Bible but also accept a distinctive body of teaching and centralized interpretive authority. They would say this reflects biblical truth; a reader applying John's words narrowly might ask whether particular teachings match the message received "from the beginning."

Limited conclusion

On the explicit, surface-level tests in John's letters, both LDS and Jehovah's Witnesses agree with most of his positive affirmations:

- Jesus is the Christ and Son of God.
- Jesus truly came in flesh.
- Jesus' death is savingly important.
- Humans sin and need forgiveness.
- Christians should obey God.

- Christians should love one another.

The principal point that cannot be settled merely by matching short doctrinal statements is John's command to abide in the teaching received "from the beginning." Both groups say their teachings preserve or express authentic Christianity; applying John's criterion requires examining their teachings against the apostolic message itself, rather than merely noting their stated affirmations.